SPARK GAP

Vol. 42, Issue 8, August 2025 ***MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities***

On Our MARC:

Please join us Saturday, August 16th at 8 am for our monthly MARC meeting at the Johnson County REMC Community Room, 750 International Drive in Franklin. MARC Elections for Executive Committee members are coming up in September. Please consider running for an office, President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer. Let Art Bleicher, WB9CHR know if you would like to be on the ballot this year no later than the August meeting (when the ballot will be closed). The votes will be finalized and counted at our annual picnic, which will be held this year at Craig Park in shelter #1. The parking lot for shelter #1 is off Smith Valley Rd just East of Madison Ave. see you at the meeting.

Tim

WC9G

Attention All Midstate Hams MARC Members:

Just a note to remind everyone that ballots for running for MARC officers are due soon. As your election representative I am encouraging all members to please consider running for office. Let me know what position you would be considering. Please let me know as soon as possible, no later than this Saturday at the regular scheduled meeting held at the Johnson County REMC building.

Please respond directly to me at wb9chr@aol.com

Art Bleicher- WB9CHR

MARC

Election Committee Representative 73's

Save The Date – MARC Tailgater!

- By James Adams

Mark your ham calendar for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club's third tailgate hamfest scheduled for Saturday, September 13, 2025. This will be an outdoor event at the Atterbury State Fish and Wildlife Area's DNR Office parking lot, directly across the road from the DNR Headquarters.

Sellers can set up from the back of their car or truck or bring a table to display their gear. There will be no charge for MARC Members (or ARRL Section Directors), but we do ask a $5.00 donation for non-members to set up a display to help offset expenses. Rest Rooms are located directly across the road at the DNR office building.

Door Prizes!

September 13, 2025 Tailgater Schedule (EDT):

•Vendor Set-Up – 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM
•Browsing, Trading and Networking: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
•Tear Down & 73: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

To reserve a space or ask a question, please contact MARC Secretary Jim Adams KB9JMU via email to secretary@midstatehams.org. MARC Members can find additional KB9JMU contact info on the Member Roster.

Check out the map of Atterbury FWA.

Atterbury FWA Headquarters

7970 South Rowe Street

Edinburgh, IN 46124

Parks On The Air Note: Although Atterbury State Fish and Wildlife Area (US-4183) is a POTA park, the DNR HQ and the parking lot where the Tailgate Hamfest will be located are retained by the US Army and are not part of the FWA. Also, the POW Chapel and its parking lot in the west 1-F area are also not part of Atterbury FWA.

You can't POTA from these locations.

Weather Ops-ervations

by KC9NJM

For those who follow the weather, especially severe weather, an organization that is frequently mentioned is the Storm Prediction Center located in Norman, Oklahoma. Founded in 1995, and operating under the auspices of the National Weather Service and NOAA, the SPC staff plays a valuable forecasting role for the weather community and the general public.

On a daily basis, the Storm Prediction Center is responsible for predicting the risk of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes across the contiguous U.S. The SPC also issues convective outlooks, mesoscale discussions, and watches. The outlooks are always for the following 8 calendar days, offered as Days, 1, 2, 3 and 4-8. More detailed forecasting is offered for days 1 and 2, with the potential of severe weather in days 3 and 4-8 being presented in a more probabilistic and percentage style formats.

As we listen to our local weather forecasts during periods when conditions may be prime for severe weather, it is common to hear statements such as “The Storm Prediction Center has issued a severe thunderstorm watch.” Similarly, when discussing weather conditions a few days out, you may hear a statement that the “Storm Prediction Center has placed us under a marginal risk for severe thunderstorms or tornadoes.” These determinations are made by the SPC for broad regional areas with the local NWS units then issuing warnings as needed when storms develop.

The work of the SPC is readily accessible for viewing at www.spc.noaa.gov.

So, the next time that you hear a mention of the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, keep in mind the valuable role that these men and women play in keeping all of us safe. Its relatively small staff is responsible for forecasting future weather conditions not just for Indiana or the midwest, but all across our nation.

Sources: spc.noaa.gov, weather.com, Wikipedia

August Birthdays

N9IKL - Dennis Ciurej
KD9WVD - James Bryant
K9JRB - Jim Bricker

Tim Allen – KK6OTD

(used on Last Man Standing)

The TV show Last Man Standing had a good effect on Amateur Radio. In almost every episode Mike Baxter was on the radio making contacts, sometimes with his grandson. Mike Baxter was played by Tim Allen whose actual call sign is KK6OTD.
Tim's actual name is Tim Dick and is listed in QRZ.

Tim has had a great career in show business and has had staring roles many in movies as well as TV shows over the years.

His call sign is a special one and “OTD” stands for Old Tim Dick.

…..... Bob N9SIU

M.A.R.C. At 2025, Touch-A-Truck

This past Saturday August 2nd MARC members participated in this annual event at Mount Auburn Church in Greenwood. As usual it was well attended by many families estimated to be about 2,500 people. There were all kinds of large trucks, cement mixers, trash trucks, public safety vehicles, helicopter, Indiana National Guard vehicles and Amateur Radio. This event is free to the public and there were many items given to the kids that attended. Food and a T-shirt was also available to the kids at no charg.

MARC had a certificate to give the kids for their first ham radio contact. We all appreciate Jim, KB9JMU for talking to the kids from his home during the event. Some of the young folks attending also inquired about getting their Amateur Radio License and they were given a list of internet sources to start their study.

The event is very well organized and everyone that attended is looking forward to next year. Hopefully we may have the great weather like this year. If you were not able to attend I am pretty sure that MARC will be there August 1st 2026.

Here are a few pictures of the activity:

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
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www.midstatehams.org
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ARRL Board Reviews and Approves By-Law Changes, Establishes 2026 as Year of the Club, and Creates 10-Band DXCC

The ARRL Board of Directors met in Windsor, Connecticut, for its Second Meeting, July 18 –19, 2025. ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, presided over the meeting.

President Roderick recognized Pacific Division Director John Litz, NZ6Q, who previously served as Vice Director.

Prior to the Board meeting, Board committees met on July 17 with the following actions highlighted below:

The Programs & Services Committee and Headquarters staff from the Radiosport Department, on the heels of creating the DXCC Trident award in January, are moving ahead with the creation of another new DXCC award **10-Band DXCC** — which will recognize those who achieve DXCC on all bands from 6 meters to 160 meters (excluding 60 meters). Higher achievement endorsements can be earned at the 200, 300, and Honor Roll levels, like the DXCC Trident. The 10-Band DXCC award challenges participants in the DXCC program to establish station capabilities and operator skills for dealing with myriad band conditions in pursuing DXCC across all 10 bands.

The Administration & Finance Committee discussed the current status of ARRL's **Washington advocacy**. This includes continuing work to build Congressional support for bills H.R.1094 and S.459 — the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act — for passage. The committee recommended to the Board that the ARRL CEO take the lead on the efforts, including executing a campaign to involve members in reaching out to their Congressional representatives later this year.

The Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee reviewed year-to-date activities, including a complete rewrite of the ARES® training modules and the recently executed Memorandum of Understanding between ARRL and Radio Relay International (RRI). The committee also discussed making 2026 the Year of the Club and proposed ideas for consideration by the Board.

The Historical Committee met to review the ARRL Heritage Museum's online collection, Radio Alpha, which currently features more than 3,000 images and documents. The repository is now

online and can be found at **www.arrl.org/arrl-museum-and-research-library.**

Here are highlights of actions taken at the Board meeting:

- Board members, after having an additional 6 months to review the **Report and Recommendations of the Special Committee on By-Law 46** that was submitted during the Annual Board Meeting in January, undertook a discussion and voted to approve the motion to adopt the report. The proposed updated language was reviewed by ARRL's Connecticut counsel who was present for questions and discussion. The changes affect By-Law 46, the Board's Conflict of Interest Policy, and By-Law 42, the charter for the Ethics & Elections Committee. The most significant change is that this introduces an unbiased competent third party to provide the Board with the results of its own determination in an E&E matter before submitting it to the ARRL Board.
- The Board approved a year-long celebration of the semiquincentennial of the United States. This will include commemorative ARRL US250 Worked All States awards from contacts made during 2026, as well as other on-air activity.
- The Board approved making 2026 the Year of the Club and passed other motions in support of the initiative including:
    - Creation of a book featuring high-performance clubs.
    - Establishment of working with and recognizing outstanding club websites while helping clubs with ineffective websites.
    - Recognizing ARRL Affiliated Clubs that maintain a higher-than-required ARRL membership level for affiliation. Clubs that achieve a 70% or a 90% ARRL membership level within their clubs will receive acknowledgment and special recognition.

The complete minutes of the 2025 Second Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors will be available soon on the ARRL website.

The next Annual Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors is scheduled for January 16 – 17, 2026.

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2025 Hamfests List

09/13/2025 – M.A.R.C. Tailgater

Location: Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area

Address: 7970 South Rowe St. Edinburgh, IN 46124

Talk-In: 146.835 – PL / 151.4

Sponsor: Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Website: https://midstatehams.org

10/11/2025 - Hoosier Hills Hamfest

- Location: Bedford, IN
- Address: Lawrence County 4-H Fairgrounds
- 11265 US-50
- Bedford, IN 47421
- Talk-In: 146.73- PL/107.2
- Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club
- Website: https://hoosierhillshamfest.com

10/18/2025 - Shelbyville Tailgate

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Confirmed
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- Location: Shelbyville, IN
- Address: Shelby County Fairgrounds
- 500 Frank St

- Shelbyville, IN 46176
- Talk-In: 145.48- 88.5pl
- Website: https://brvars.com/

11/15-16/2025 - Ft Wayne Hamfest

- `Confirmed`
- Location: Fort Wayne, IN
- Address: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
- 4000 Parnell Ave
- Fort Wayne, IN 46805
- Talk-In: 146.88-
- Website: http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm

11/29/2025 WVARA Turkeyfest

- Location: Brazil, IN
- Address: Clay County Fairgrounds
- 6550 N SR 59
- Brazil, IN
- Talk-In 146.685- 151.4PL
- Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA
- Website: W9UUU.org

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM of each month at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:
Offical SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Jim Bryant - KD9WVD
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Art Bleicher – WB9CHR
Club P.I.O. : Rusty Kirts - N9LLP

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
857 Lionshead Lane
Greenwood, Indiana
46143
Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.

Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.

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